

**MINUTES**  
*of the*  
**SANTA BARBARA METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**DATE:** July 20, 2004

**PLACE:** 550 Olive Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair John Britton, Vice Chair, Secretary Brian Fahnestock, Directors Lee Moldaver, David Davis, and General Manager Sherrie Fisher

**Members Absent:** Director Olivia Rodriguez

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Steve Maas (Planning), Lynnette Coverly (Marketing), Jerry Estrada (Controller/Assist. Gen. Mgr.), Browning Allen (SB City), Steve Musick, Josh Molina (SB News Press)

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**1. Call to Order**

Chair John Britton called the meeting to order at 8:33am

**2. Roll Call of the Board of Directors**

Chair Britton noted that all Board members were present, with the exception of Director Rodriguez.

**3. Report Regarding Posting of Agenda**

General Manager, Sherrie Fisher, reported that the agenda for this meeting was posted at the MTD administrative headquarters and on the MTD Website last week and mailed to media of general circulation.

**4. Approval of Prior Minutes**

Director Moldaver moved to waive the reading of, and approve the minutes of July 6, 2004. Director Davis seconded the motion, motion passed.

**5. Cash Report**

The Board was asked to approve the cash report from June 29 through July 12, 2004. Director Moldaver moved to accept the cash report, Director Fahnestock seconded.

Director Fahnestock had a question regarding the maintenance software consultant and what those costs entail. Mr. Estrada stated that through December 2004 this project is budgeted at approximately \$30,000.

Chair Britton raised a question regarding the Milpas St. (Trader Joe's) shelter and installation project and if that was a final cost figure. Ms. Fisher confirmed that that project was completed, and that it was in partnership with COAST, and with the City of Santa Barbara (Community Development Block Grant.)

The motion passed unanimously.

**6. Public Comment**

Steve Musick spoke to Calle Real Property issues. He noted the July 6<sup>th</sup> minutes stated Mr. Moldaver requested Calle Real be discussed at the July Board meeting and should have read 'at the July televised Board meeting'.

Mr. Davis let Mr. Musick know that at a future meeting the Board will give Mr. Musick a 20-minute slot to make his presentation.

Mr. Musick responded that if in fact he can attend said meeting he would greatly appreciate that.

**7. TDA Triennial Performance Audit (action may be taken-attachment)**

Ms. Fisher reported that SBCAG had a Triennial Performance Audit performed regarding MTD. The report was completed in June and as of July 15 was presented formally to SBCAG. Ms. Fisher then introduced Mr. Estrada to present it to the Board. Mr. Estrada went on to point out to the Board the high points and some findings of the audit. SBCAG hires and audit firm once ever three years to audit recipients of TDA moneys, it also reviews SBCAG and their ability to distribute those funds. This audit focuses mainly on performance as opposed to financials.

Mr. Estrada went through the TDA audit page by page pointing out where MTD was given credit for good performance and noting places where changes are recommended.

Director Moldaver complimented Staff in the results of the audit. Mr. Moldaver also wanted Mr. Molina (SB News Press) to be apprised of the audit and the opportunity to ask questions as he sees fit. This document should also be made available to some of the groups that protested staff performance last year so they will note how we have fared in this audit. Lastly if approved by the General Manager, have Marketing draft up a one page sheet of paper and one paragraph on our website explaining the different audits and reviews we are subject to each year.

Director Davis asked for an explanation between The Short Range Transit Plan, and the South Coast Transit Plan. Mr. Estrada set out to explain these two plans and how they differ in some areas and duplicate each other in other areas. Director Moldaver interjected his expertise on the background of these two plans. General Manager Fisher spoke next to state the South Coast Transit Plan was a very ambitious work put together by Chuck McQuary (MTD retired) and John Murdock (MTD retired) then presented to the agencies to say 'this is something we can do if we have your assistance.' From this original document came the sub-set South Coast Transit Priorities.

Director Davis had a concern with Performance Indicators and their relevance. Mr. Estrada explained that with the proper narrative each indicator becomes relevant.

Director Fahnestock stated his pleasure with most of what the TDA had to report and he is happy to be associated with a company that receives such high grades. His concern however is that this report deals with the past, and he would rather see timely reporting on how MTD is performing.

## **8. General Manager's Report**

Ms. Fisher introduced Steve Maas (Planning Department), and she gave an overall view of where MTD stands with the County in regards to the South Coast Transit Priorities and what has been presented to SBCAG. There are meetings being planned in the next few weeks to meet with the varying agencies that will be impacted by the SCTP, including TCC, SB City Council, Goleta City Council, and the County Board of Supervisors. Ms. Fisher then gave additional details of new routing and new lines that will go into effect if and when funding becomes available. Including future plans for Transit Center and Bus Stop renovation and improvements.

Director Moldaver gave kudos to Mr. Maas, Ms. Coverly and Mr. Damiano for the preparations of the presentation just given and the simplicity with which it could be understood.

Casual Friday Uniforms: Friday, July 16 MTD hosted an employee 'luau / BBQ' to showcase the new Hawaiian Uniform Shirt, Ms. Fisher mentioned how well received the shirt was and stressed it is to be worn only on "Casual Friday."

Ms. Fisher brought forward the idea of hosting "Vision Workshops."

General Manager Fisher introduced Tiara Lakey as our new receptionist and returning employee, with a total of just over 8 years with the District.

Director Fahnestock suggested a program where law enforcement be offered free transportation, and in return display a show of authority and aid in abating vandalism.

## **9. Other Business**

Mr. Steve Musick took the floor and gave some background on MTD's Calle Real property and his tenancy from 1989 through 1996. He has many concerns regarding how this property will be dealt with in conjunction with regulations governing said property. He couldn't see how the County Housing Authority (as a public agency) and MTD (as a public agency) could hold discussions over building a housing project on agricultural land. He sees a discrepancy in plans for a pedestrian oriented facility versus a transit-oriented development.

Director Davis said he anticipates the Calle Real project to be back on the next regular agenda at which time the documents with the proposed developers will be publicly available and open to inspection. Action maybe taken.

Director Moldaver said he was sorry to see Browning Allen had left, because he was interested in any feedback from the covert operation (bus excursion) that he, Dr. Dan Secord and Mr. Roger Horton undertook with their stopwatch and schedules recently.

Ms. Fisher said Dr. Secord did report to her with very positive remarks on their excursion.

Director Moldaver had a three-part question asking for future reports related to:

- 1) Workers Compensation Reform Legislation
- 2) Impact on pass/fare systems
- 3) Measure D

Director Fahnestock asked about farebox ratio on the Valley Express, and if MTD had the numbers on regional transit providers and their farebox ratios. Mr. Maas took the floor and described the other services such as the Coastal Express (that runs all day) has a poor farebox ratio but commuter-only (peak hour service) has a much higher ratio.

Director Moldaver expressed his wishes for Marketing to put together a nice first day launch of the Valley Express, with alerts going out to local media, elected officials, and civic leaders etc.

Director Britton took some time to say he will appoint an Ad-hoc committee to review of the General Manager salary and benefits package. He then appointed Directors Moldaver and Fahnestock to that Ad-hoc committee and asked of them to report back within the next six months including performance goals and appropriate package for the General Manager.

#### **10. Closed Session**

The board went into closed session pursuant to Government Code §54956.9 to discuss potential litigation involving Gibson Environmental Site, Bakersfield, CA., and pursuant to Government Code §54957.6, to discuss labor negotiations with labor negotiators Sherrie Fisher and Jerry Estrada.

The Board came out of Closed Session at 10:15am, and gave the General Manager the authority to settle the claim with Gibson Environmental Services.

No action was taken related to labor negotiations.

#### **15. Adjournment**

Director Moldaver made a motion, seconded by Director Davis, motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am

Approved by Board of Directors on August 3, 2004

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Brian Fahnestock, Secretary of the Board